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ABSTRACT

A variety of informal language development assessment tools is presented for use with children with developmental disabilities. This book is written as a manual for clinicians and researchers for evaluating children who cannot meet the cognitive, perceptual, or motor requirements of standardized tests and to help evaluate aspects of language not assessed by other published measures. The first chapter offers background information on the clinical assessment of language comprehension, with discussion of the reasons for assessing comprehension and for use of informal procedures such as those presented here. This section also provides guidelines for using the procedures. Chapters 2, 3, and 4 contain procedures for assessing specific aspects of language development at three distinct stages: emerging language (developmental level 8-24 months); developing language (developmental level 24-60 months); and language for learning (developmental level 5-10 years). For each stage, production milestones are specified, procedures are described, and supplementary materials (score sheets, interpretation forms, and stimulus items when appropriate) are provided. The final chapter presents case studies that illustrate how the assessment model can be implemented with children in each language development stage and with severe speech impairments. Contains references, a glossary, and an index. (MSE)

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